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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/086,351	02/28/2002	Takeshi Ozawa	1232-4831	4045
27123	7590	05/17/2005	EXAMINER	
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P. 3 WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER NEW YORK, NY 10281-2101			HANNE, SARA M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2179	

DATE MAILED: 05/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/086,351

Applicant(s)

OZAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Sara M Hanne

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-10, 12-17, 19-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-10,12-17,19 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the amendment filed 1/31/05. Examiner notes the amendment with amended Claims 1, 3-7, 10, 12-14, 17, originally presented Claims 8-9, 15-16, cancelled Claims 2, 11, 18 and newly presented Claims 19-20.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 17 and 19-20 are objected to because of the following informalities:
Claim 17, line 9 "setting an orde", should be "setting an order". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 3-7, 10, 12-14 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Volk et al., US Patent 5687331.

As in Claims 1, 10 and 17, Volk et al. teaches an information processing apparatus, method, and computer storage medium with control program comprising determination means for searching the multimedia contents and thereby determining objects while the multimedia contents are displayed on the display screen (Col. 8, line 16 et seq.), wherein each of the objects is associated with an executable function ("an "object" refers to a software element comprising an associated set of function members and data members accessible through a set of predefined interface commands",

Column 10, lines 46-49), setting means for setting an order for the objects determined by the determination means (Ref. 822a and 822b, Fig. 7-8 and corresponding text), control means for controlling order set in the setting means so that each of the objects is to be selected in turn (Figure 5d, "tab mode", Column 21, line 57 et seq.) and the associated function is executed upon receiving a command from the user (Col. 7, lines 6-17).

As in Claims 3 and 12, Volk et al. teaches the setting means determines an order in which objects appear (done by the system determining the nature of the user input), which the objects are laid vertically (selection between control items 102, 103 and 104), or an order in which objects are laid out horizontally (control of modal control item 104).

As in Claim 4, Volk et al. teaches an instruction means for instructing one of the objects determined by the determination means as the object to be selected (Col. 20, lines 30-35).

As in Claim 5, Volk et al. teaches means for changing an instruction of the object to be selected by the instruction means in accordance with the order set by the setting means (Fig. 9b and Fig. 11 with corresponding text).

As in Claims 6 and 13, Volk et al. teaches identifiably informing the user of the object instructed as the object to be selected by the instruction means ("highlighting" Col. 7, lines 18-20).

As in Claims 7 and 14, Volk et al. teaches a button for switching the object to be selected by one touch in accordance with the order (navigational arrow buttons, Col. 16, line 67).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 8-9, 15-16 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Volk et al. US Patent 5687331, and further in view of Yokomizo, US Patent Application Publication 2002/0124263.

Volk et al. an information processing apparatus and method for determining an object set with a function from multimedia contents encoded by object-based coding and selecting each object in turn (see the rejection of Claims 1 and 10 *supra*).

As in Claims 8, 15 and 19, while Volk et al. teaches the selection method of determined functions from multimedia contents encoded by object-based coding, they fail to show the object-based coding including MPEG-4 as recited in the claims. In the same field of the invention, Yokomizo teaches an information processing apparatus and method similar to that of Volk et al. In addition, Yokomizo further teaches the object-based coding including MPEG-4 (Pg. 2-3, Par. 35). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Volk et al. and Yokomizo before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the selection method of determined functions from multimedia contents encoded by object-based coding taught by Volk et al. to include the object-based coding including MPEG-4 of Yokomizo, in order to obtain the use of MPEG-4 concurrent menu function selection. One would have been

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motivated to make such a combination because use of the invention in a current day video implementation would have been obtained, as taught by Yokomizo.

As in Claims 9, 16 and 20, while Volk et al. teaches the selection method of determined functions from multimedia contents encoded by object-based coding, they fail to show the BIFS data as recited in the claims. In the same field of the invention, Yokomizo teaches an information processing apparatus and method similar to that of Volk et al. In addition, Yokomizo further teaches the multimedia contents encoded by object-based coding include BIFS data and the determination means determines objects based on the BIFS data (Pg. 3, Par. 46). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Volk et al. and Yokomizo before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the selection method of determined functions from multimedia contents encoded by object-based coding taught by Volk et al. to include the inclusion of BIFS data of Yokomizo, in order to obtain BIFS data implementation for menu display. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because scene implementation would have been obtained, as taught by Yokomizo.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 1/31/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Volk does disclose setting means for setting an order for the plurality of objects determined by the determination means. Selection of a left or right arrow determines the order in which subsequent contents are displayed on the screen (Figure 8b and corresponding text).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach similar selection and control techniques for multimedia functions.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sara M Hanne whose telephone number is (571) 272-4135. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30am-4:00pm, off on alternating Fridays.

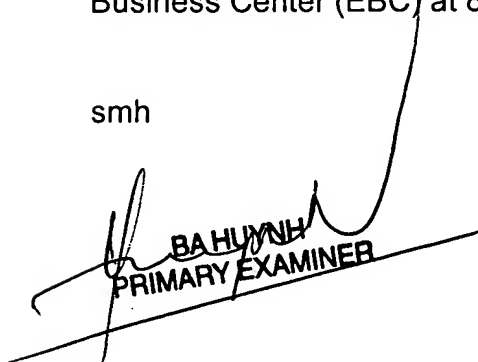
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather R Herndon can be reached on (571) 272-4136. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

smh


BA HUYNH
PRIMARY EXAMINER